

11/5/77

Dear Wendell Kruech,

Sorry not to have been able to respond to your last letter sooner.

On your coming trip to Dallas, the only thing that would at the moment be of special interest to me is any of the news stories that have appeared since June, when I was there.

All the things you mention are of interest but there is a limit to what I can be deeply involved in. Banister is an example. I do not regard him as a significant figure. Interesting, very much. I did some cursory investigating back in 1968 or thereabouts. However, I would be very interested in any information for an entirely different reason. I would like to be able to add it to my Banister file for the future, for it to be available to all, including those who have a different view of his role, or those who believe he does not really figure in the JFK assassination. He does figure in other activities that can interest some people.

The same is true of Milteer. I think you realize that he popularized him. I'm interested in completeness in that file. Dan Christensen is a good friend. I have seen what he has written but neither of us can afford the phone calls to stay in close contact.

John Tjomas Nasen is of more interest. You may remember that in Whitewash I had a chapter "The False Oswald." On this you may want to jog Gary Schoener's memory. When I spoke in Mpls in mid-may 1968 a young man named John Martin was turned on and provided me with a film the FBI had kept secret from the Warren Commission. Gary, other students and I viewed the film, which Martin loaned me. I left it with Gary for copies to be made. This included some stills. I think you should examine one still in particular, taken from over Oswald's right shoulder and from the back. He looks much different in it. Then if you see Nasen again you may have a different or a new perspective. But I have never had any doubt that someone was counterfeiting Oswald and this is of much interest to me and will continue to be. It also is more relevant to work I still plan and have begun.

I have not been able to keep up with recent releases. Gary can probably refer you to those who have if he has not, as I presume is impossible for him. I doubt there would be much on Banister because neither the FBI nor the Secret Service, both knowing him, would have been willing to look into him and because neither would have seen him as relevant.

My source on his brain damage was Aaron Kohn. He runs the New Orleans Crime Commission. He is not a friend. We have never met. But if you do not come on as one who regards Banister as the master-mind of the JFK assassination he might be informative. As I recall they knew each other from the Chicago FBI. Kohn apparently regarded Banister as a good cop and brought him to New Orleans because he regarded him as honest. The New Orleans police were pretty corrupt, even for that corrupt city.

Banister was of the extreme right and reportedly associated with Cubans of that view. I know there was some controversy over what happened to his files, whether his wife or his secretary received them. I don't know if Jim Garrison would be helpful on this. He thought Banister was important in the JFK case. What Mrs. DeCidio has not told you is that Garrison got himself in trouble about the time you report he started to drink heavily. I think I reported it in Oswald in New Orleans. It was much even for the N.O. cops and he had to go.

The other names in your letter mean nothing to me.

Thanks, good luck and best wishes,